

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 SS-15
STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 L-03 H-01 /070 W
-----008386 281323Z /41

O 281244Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2187
INFO USLO RIYADH
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY PAIRS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BENC, ETRD, SA
SUBJECT: HEJAZ RAILWAY

REF: STATE 135214

1. EMBASSY HAS CONTACTED DR. MUHIEDDIN KHAYYAL, DEPUTY
MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, AND AHRAR KHOJA, DIRECTOR OF
COMMERCE MINISTRY BOYCOTT OFFICE. RESULTS ARE INCONCLUSIVE.

2. KHAYYAL CONFIRMED THAT LANGUAGE ON PREQUALIFICATION WAS
GIVING PROBLEM TO ALL THE U.S. FIRMS SEEKING ENGINEERING
CONTRACT FOR THE HEJAZ RAILWAY. OTHER U.S. FIRMS SAID TO
BE SEEKING HEJAZ RAILWAY ENGINEERING CONTRACT ARE:
(A) FORD, BACON AND DAIVS, (B) BROWN AND ROOT, AND (C)
R.M. PARSONS (JOINTLY WITH INDIAN FIRM). THERE MAY BE
OTHER U.S. FIRMS BUT SAG REGULATIONS FORBID REVELATION.
ALSO KNOWN TO BE SEEKING THE JOB ARE GERMAN, FRNECH
AND JAPANESE FIRMS.

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3. KHAYYAL SUGGESTED THAT U.S. FIRMS SUCH AS
PARSONS-BRINCKERHOFF CONTACT SAUDI MINISTRY OF
COMMERCE AT RIYADH FOR WAIVER ON ANSWERING QUESTIONS.
KHOJA SEEMS PREPARED TO LISTEN TO REPRESENTATIONS OF
U.S. FIRMS BUT WILL NOT TAKE INITIATIVE ON BASIS OF
CONVERSATIONS WITH US.

4. COMMENT: PREVIOUS USLO AND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CONTACTS WITH SAG

ON THIS SUBJECT HAVE ALSO BEEN INCONCLUSIVE. THIS
IS DUE PARTLY, WE BELIEVE, TO TRIPARTITE NATURE OF
HEJAZ PROJECT COMMITTEE. NEW SAG REGULATION ALLOWS
ALL BOYCOTT QUESTIONS TO BE DIRECTED TOWARD MIN
COMMERCE BOYCOTT OFFICE RATHER THAN BIDDING FIRMS,
BUT THIS DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE APPLICABLE FOR
HEJAZ RR PROJECT. WE DOUBT IF SAUDIS BEING MORE
DIFFICULT ON THIS THAN SYRIANS, OR PERHAPS EVEN
JORDANIANS; THEY ARE JUST AFRAID TO GET OUT AHEAD
OF OTHERS SO PUBLICLY IN RELAXING BOYCOTT ENFORCE-
MENT.
WILEY

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: BENC, ETRD, SA
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Review Markings:
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